

THE PULSE

MCFARLAND UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

a church with heart - weekly newsletter

*"I will put my teaching in their minds and write it on their hearts..."
Jeremiah 31:33*

September 30 -- October 7, 2022

You can find brief descriptions of these weekly programs on our website:

mcfarlanducc.org



SUNDAY Morning, 10 am Zoom Worship
<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439> Password: **bettogether**



SUNDAY , 12 noon Zoom Bible Study
<https://zoom.us/j/262314649>



MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8 am Morning Devotion
<https://zoom.us/j/94276813637>



WEDNESDAY Eve., 6:30 pm Midweek Inhale Spiritual Practices
<https://zoom.us/j/123020606>

Happening This Week



***Sunday, October 2nd,
Sunday Morning Worship
10 a.m in-person and on
Zoom.***

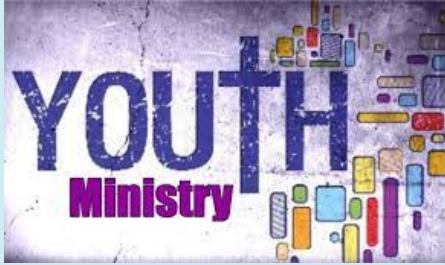
Masks are now optional...

45th McFarland UCC Anniversary Celebration!

October Birthdays, Communion and Cake after church!

<https://zoom.us/j/97010988439>

Password: **betgether**



***Sunday, October 2nd,
5:30-7 p.m.
Teen Youth Meeting with Lake
Edge UCC at church.***

***Thursday, October 6th, 6:00 p.m. Monthly SaLT
Meeting at Church***

Things Coming Up



Saturday, October 8, Church Retreat

Reminder: This is just a reminder to those who signed up for our Saturday morning "Leadership Retreat" at the Conference Headquarters in DeForest. This will no doubt be a meaningful time together.

Note: There are still a few open spots, and you don't have to be in a leadership role to participate. If you would like to join us there may still be a chance you can. Please let Becky Cohen know ASAP (608-358-0492; cohenrw@yahoo.com)



***Friday, October 14, 5:30-6:45
p.m. Younger Youth Meeting.***

Our Younger Youth (12-1under) meet the second Friday of each month for games, a Bible story or teaching, conversation, and pizza! Join us and bring some friends! The more the merrier!! Parents are welcome

***Friday, October
28th 6:00 -- 8 p.m.***

FUN Night!

All Church Fun Night!!

Mark the Date! More details to come!!

The idea is just to have some **fun for all ages** playing some games and enjoying a time to socialize and enjoy each other. Board games, cards, and perhaps even a **"Talent/No Talent Show!"** A Talent/No Talent Show is just a chance to either share an actual talent (music, poetry, a piece of art, etc.) OR to do something silly and just for fun. A skit, a joke, a "stupid human trick." Whatever! Let's play together and have fun getting to know sides of each other that don't tend to emerge on Sunday mornings!



Ushers Still Needed

We still need some ushers for certain Sundays in October, November and

December.

The link for Sign Up Genius to Usher:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoD48AEA72EA64-summer> (The link says summer however ushers are needed year round)

Thank you to everyone who ushered during the summer!!! And thanks to many of you who already signed up to usher this Fall!

Your willingness to usher is truly appreciated.

Becky Cohen



Pastor Discretionary
Fund

The "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" Needs To Be Replenished

Thanks so much to those who already made a donation last week. We could still use a few more contributions to

replenish this fund so I'm leaving this appeal in the Pulse one more week.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is the account that Pastor Bryan uses to help specific individuals and families in our local community with things like food, gas, emergency housing, rent, and utilities bills. This fund stands on its own and we do not draw from our General Fund or our Outreach Funds for this aspect of our congregation's ministry. When this account reaches a zero balance we let our community know and trust that some of you will feel led to contribute to this ministry. Well **the fund has indeed been depleted, and so we are hoping some of you make a donation toward this purpose.**

If you have any questions about how this money is used or what our policies and methodologies are for offering this kind of compassionate direct assistance here in McFarland and vicinity, please contact Pastor Bryan and he'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

Thanks so much to all of you who have contributed to this fund in the past, and thanks in advance for helping to make sure we have money designated for this very vital dimension of our church's service to our community.

[Here is a link to make a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary fund](#)

Of course checks can be made out to our church for this purpose as well. Please just put "Pastor's Discretionary" in the memo line.



***A Few
Words
From
Pastor
Bryan***

This made me laugh off and on throughout this past week...

Those of you who were in church last week may remember that I asked you a couple of times to say together out loud, "The Bible says I am SO lovable!" In fact I ended the sermon that way.

Well after the benediction one beloved member of our church community (I won't mention his name but I also know he wouldn't mind if I did) came up to me and said, "Sometimes I have trouble hearing, and I just want to make sure I understood you correctly. Did you ask us to repeat the words, ""The Bible says I am SO gullible?"

Okay that still makes me laugh. Maybe I have a weird sense of humor. But it's made me chuckle all week. Partly because I just have great affection and respect for this person and he has a wonderful sense of humor and often makes me laugh. But also because he was so sincere in the way he asked me if that's what I'd said. He gave me the impression that if I had said, "The Bible says we are SO gullible," he would have gone with it as best he could and worked with it. He did seem a bit relieved when I cleared things up, and he's going to see if he can get a new hearing device with a t-coil switch so he'll hear things better in church. But it was a funny moment and fortunately we were both smiling. I know how frustrating it can be not to be able to hear well, and neither one of us were making any fun of that.

But I've enjoyed the laugh all week for several reasons. On the more serious side, it reminds me that I have absolutely no control over what you all "hear" when I preach. Literally or in terms of the message itself. And maybe the Bible DOES say that we're all somewhat gullible. Hmmm. That brought to mind the importance of getting clear on what we do believe is True so that we are not as likely to be deceived or manipulated. I remembered the lyric of Graham Nash (of Crosby, Still, Nash & Young), "You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything."

But mostly I just appreciated the laugh itself. I think most of us need to laugh more often, especially when the world or our own lives get heavy. And that made me think of my closest friend Marques Bovre (a McFarland resident), who died at age 50 in 2013 of brain cancer. No one in my life has ever understood the "medicinal magic" of laughter better than Marques. Even before his cancer diagnosis he lived with chronic pain from a severe form of arthritis. He was always in pain, but he knew what to do to start laughing. I've shared some of his "go to" sources of laughter in sermons before.

But I've never mentioned his dog Charlie. Charlie was some kind of mutt with curly poodle-like hair, long skinny legs much too lanky for his body that caused him to look kind of like a hook and ladder fire truck with the rear wheels out to the side, a terrier-ish face, an underbite, and usually his tongue was out just a bit over his protruding bottom teeth. I mean that

dog was so "wrong looking" he was just right. And when Marques needed to laugh all he needed to do was call Charlie and have him sit in front of him and look at him. He adored that dog. He delighted in that creature's tragic and disproportionate perfection. And looking at Charlie just made him laugh.

Do you have a "go to source of laughter?" I do. Quite a few actually. Memories that have the power to make me at least smile no matter what, and that God uses to gently say, "Yes, I know things are hard sometimes. But there's this too." I need to pull those memories out and linger with them more often. And I need to experience some new ones. We all do.

That picture you see up top is Marques at the last concert he ever did with his band The Evil Twins. It was at The High Noon Saloon in Madison He knocked it out of the park that Sunday afternoon. He had to sit the whole time because he was too sick and weak to stand, but his performance was perfect and that smile--well that says it all.

Let's laugh as often as we can. I know God must love it when we do. Joy in living is one of the best ways of living out our gratitude for the blessing it is to be alive in this wild but wonderful world.

I am SO gullible!

And lovable. And so are you.

Hope to see you Sunday,

Pastor Bryan

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